

**State of New York  
Commission on Judicial Nomination**

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November 23, 2022  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Commission on Judicial Nomination Releases List of Seven Nominees In  
Connection with Chief Judge Vacancy**

Under New York's Constitution, the Commission on Judicial Nomination is charged with evaluating, and then recommending to the Governor, candidates to fill vacancies on the State's highest court, the Court of Appeals of the State of New York. The Commission vigorously seeks out, carefully evaluates and then nominates to the Governor well-qualified candidates from the extraordinary, diverse community of lawyers who have been admitted to practice in New York State for at least 10 years.

In connection with the coming vacancy on the Court created by the resignation of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, effective August 31, 2022, the Commission today released its Report to the Governor. The Report contains the names of seven candidates who in the Commission's collective judgment are well qualified, by virtue of their character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office, to fulfill the duties of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York.

The Commission's Report follows outreach efforts that were conducted through public announcements and individual solicitations of applications. These efforts resulted in the receipt of 41 applications. The applicant pool was diverse. Of the 41 applicants, 22 (54%) were women and 17 (41%) of diverse backgrounds. The Commission ultimately interviewed 17 candidates, of whom 10 (59%) were female and 7 (41%) were ethnic minorities. The Commission interviewed candidates from around the State, of varying personal and professional backgrounds, and drawing from the bench, the practicing bar and academia.

E. Leo Milonas, Chair of the Commission, stated, "I am gratified at the extraordinary quality and diverse backgrounds of our applicants. That so many exceptional candidates were motivated to apply demonstrates the remarkable strength and depth of the legal profession in the State of New York."

The Commission's seven nominees (in alphabetical order) to the Governor are:

- Hon. Anthony Cannataro, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals and Acting Chief Judge;
- Abbe R. Gluck, Esq., Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy, Yale Law School; and Professor of Internal Medicine (General Medicine), Yale Medical School;
- Hon. Hector D. LaSalle, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department;
- Hon. Jeffrey K. Oing, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department;
- Alicia Ouellette, Esq., President and Dean, Albany Law School;
- Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, Judge of the Court of Claims and Acting Justice of the Supreme Court; and,
- Corey L. Stoughton, Esq., Attorney-in-Charge, Special Litigation and Law Reform, The Legal Aid Society.

By law, the Governor is required to make her appointment from among this list no sooner than December 8, 2022 nor later than December 23, 2022. The State Senate then, within 30 days after receipt of the Governor's choice, must confirm or reject the appointment.

The next vacancy on the Court of Appeals is scheduled to occur on December 31, 2027, in connection with the expiration of Associate Judge Jenny Rivera's 14-year term on the Court.

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November 23, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

As Chair of the Commission on Judicial Nomination, it is my privilege to report to you on behalf of the Commission, pursuant to Article 6, Section 2 of the Constitution, and Section 63(3) of Article 3-A of the Judiciary Law, the names of seven candidates for your consideration for appointment to the office of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York. These candidates in the collective judgment of the Commission are well qualified, by virtue of their character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office, to discharge the duties of that high office. The vacancy in that office is the result of the resignation of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, effective August 31, 2022.

In assembling the candidate list, the Commission complied with its mandate to “conduct broad outreach to encourage wide participation in the application process.” 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 7100.6. For example, the Commission disseminated statewide notice of the vacancy and application procedure and continued its outreach efforts through the date of the application deadline. Notice was sent to the media, bar associations, New York law schools, and members of the judiciary. Commissioners also engaged in individual solicitation of applications by qualified candidates.

The Commission's outreach efforts were once again successful. Altogether, 41 candidates submitted applications to the Commission. Of those 41 candidates, 19 previously submitted applications for at least one prior vacancy and 22 candidates newly applied for the current vacancy. Female candidates submitted 22 (54%) of the applications; and candidates of diverse backgrounds submitted 17 (41%) of the applications.

The Commission met on November 21 and 22, 2022 to conduct interviews of 17 candidates. Of those 17 candidates, 10 (59%) were female and 7 (41%) were ethnic minorities. The Commission interviewed candidates from around the State, of varying personal and professional backgrounds, and drawing from the bench, the practicing bar and academia.

Consistent with past practice, Commission staff investigated the qualifications of the applicants. The result of each investigation was reported to the Commission and discussed before and after the interviews. The Commission sought by its investigations and interviews to address each candidate's character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office.

The Commission's seven nominees (in alphabetical order) to the Governor are:

- Hon. Anthony Cannataro, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals and Acting Chief Judge;
- Abbe R. Gluck, Esq., Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy, Yale Law School; and Professor of Internal Medicine (General Medicine), Yale Medical School;
- Hon. Hector D. LaSalle, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division, Second Department;
- Hon. Jeffrey K. Oing, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department;
- Alicia Ouellette, Esq., President and Dean, Albany Law School;
- Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, Judge of the Court of Claims and Acting Justice of the Supreme Court; and,
- Corey L. Stoughton, Esq., Attorney-in-Charge, Special Litigation and Law Reform, The Legal Aid Society.

Each candidate recommended for the Office of Chief Judge has been interviewed by the Commission and each has filed the financial statement required by law, which is being transmitted to you separately. A summary of the careers of the recommended candidates is attached.

Section 66(2) of the Judiciary Law provides that "[t]he governor shall have access to all papers and information relating to persons recommended to him by the commission." At your request, the Commission will furnish you with any such material or information, which requests should be directed to the Commission's Counsel, Henry M. Greenberg.

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
November 23, 2022  
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Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "E. Leo Milonas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

E. Leo Milonas  
Chair

## **NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES (in alphabetical order):**

### **Hon. Anthony Cannataro**

Hon. Anthony Cannataro, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals and Acting Chief Judge, was found by the Commission to be well qualified for the position of Chief Judge based on his character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office. He was interviewed by the Commission for the Chief Judge vacancy on November 21, 2022.

Judge Cannataro received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University (*cum laude*) in 1993 and law degree from New York Law School (*cum laude*) in 1996. Upon graduation from law school, he served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Manhattan Trial Unit of the New York City Law Department. He served as a law clerk to Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals (2000 to 2003) and Hon. Lottie E. Wilkins in Supreme Court, New York County (2003-2011). He was elected a Judge of the New York City Civil Court, New York County in 2011 and was an Acting Judge of the Family Court in Kings County from 2012 through 2013. He then sat in the New York City Civil Court, Bronx County from 2014 through 2015. In 2016, he was appointed Supervising Judge of New York City Civil Court, New York County. He was elected to the Supreme Court, New York County, in 2017 and, starting in 2018, was appointed Citywide Administrative Judge for the Civil Court of the City of New York.

Judge Cannataro serves as Co-Chair of the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York State Courts and as a Commissioner of the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts. He serves on the Chief Judge's Advisory Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution and has served on various committees in several bar associations, including the New York State Bar Association and the New York County Lawyers Association.

### **Professor Abbe R. Gluck**

Professor Abbe R. Gluck was found by the Commission to be well qualified for the position of Chief Judge based on her character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office. She is the Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School. She is also Professor of Internal Medicine (General Medicine) at Yale Medical School and a Professor in the Institution for Social and Policy Studies at Yale. She was interviewed by the Commission for the Chief Judge vacancy on November 21, 2022.

Professor Gluck received her undergraduate degree from Yale University (*summa cum laude*) with distinction in 1996. She then received her law degree, with honors, from Yale Law School in 2000. Following law school, she served as a law clerk for Hon. Ralph K. Winter of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (2000 to 2001) and Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (2003 to 2004). She then worked as a litigation associate from 2001 to 2002 at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. She joined Yale Law School in 2012, having previously served on the faculty of Columbia Law School. Prior to joining Columbia, she served in the administration of New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine as the

special counsel and senior advisor to the New Jersey Attorney General; and in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, as chief of staff and counsel to the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, senior counsel in the New York City Office of Legal Counsel, and deputy special counsel to the New York City Charter Revision Commission. From November 2020 to November 2021, she served in the Biden Administration as Special Counsel to the President. In that capacity, she was the lead lawyer for the White House COVID-19 Response, first for the Biden-Harris Transition and then in the White House, as Special Counsel to the White House COVID-19 Response Team. She also simultaneously served as a member of the White House Counsel's Office, where she was additionally responsible for litigation and policy relating to health care, USDA, and Veterans Affairs across the Administration.

Professor Gluck is a member of various commissions and boards, including serving as the Vice Chair on the fund for Modern Courts, Chair of the Health Law Committee, the New York State Taskforce on Life and the Law, and a member of the American Law Institute.

### **Hon. Hector D. LaSalle**

Hon. Hector D. LaSalle, the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, was found by the Commission to be well qualified for the position of Chief Judge based on his character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office. He was interviewed by the Commission for the Chief Judge vacancy on November 22, 2022.

Justice LaSalle received his undergraduate degree from Penn State University in 1990. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1993. From 1993 to 1998, he served an Assistant District Attorney with the Office of the Suffolk County District Attorney. From 1998 to 1999, he was in private practice. From 1999 to 2002, he served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Office of the New York State Attorney General. From 2002 to 2008, he returned to the Office of the Suffolk County District Attorney to serve as Deputy Bureau Chief Special Investigations Bureau and Head of the Anti- Gang Unit. From 2008 to 2014, he served as a Justice of the Supreme Court, Tenth Judicial District, and then as a Justice of the Appellate Term of the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts from 2012 to 2014. In 2014, he was appointed an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department. He was appointed the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, in 2021.

Justice LaSalle is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Suffolk County Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, the New York State Latino Judge Association, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, and the New York State Supreme Court Justices Association. He is also the co-founder and former President of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association.

## **Hon. Jeffrey K. Oing**

Hon. Jeffrey K. Oing, an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, was found by the Commission to be well qualified for the position of Chief Judge based on his character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office. He was interviewed by the Commission for the Chief Judge vacancy on November 22, 2022.

Justice Oing received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University in 1986, and his law degree from New York University School of Law School in 1989. From 1989 to 1990, he served as law clerk to Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Between 1990 and 1993, he worked in private practice as a litigation associate and in the Office of Counsel to New Jersey Governor Jim Florio. In 1993, Justice Oing became a Principal Court Attorney in Supreme Court, New York County, serving as Law Secretary to Justices Marilyn Diamond and Walter B. Tolub before receiving a special assignment from the Office of the General Counsel of the City of New York to act as Deputy Director for the New York City Districting Commission. In January, 2004, he was elected Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, where he served until elected Justice of the Supreme Court in 2011 after serving in an Acting capacity from 2009. He was appointed to the Appellate Division, First Department, in 2017.

Justice Oing has served on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Lawyers Guild and as a Director of the Chinese-American Planning Council since 2001. He was co-chair to the Unified Court System Court Interpreter Advisory Committee from 2010-2017 and served on the New York Pattern Jury Instruction Committee from 2017 to 2019. Since 2021, Justice Oing has served on the Franklin D. Williams Commission, which advises decision makers in the New York Court System on issues affecting employees and litigants of color.

## **Dean Alicia Ouellette**

Alicia Ouellette, President and Dean of Albany Law School, was found by the Commission to be well qualified for the position of Chief Judge based on her character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office. She was interviewed by the Commission for the Chief Judge vacancy on November 21, 2022.

Dean Ouellette received her undergraduate degree from Hamilton College (*cum laude*) in 1988 and law degree from Albany Law School (*magna cum laude*) in 1994. She was editor-in-chief of the *Albany Law Review*. Upon graduation from law school, she served as a law clerk to Hon. Howard A. Levine, an Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals (1994 to 1996). She was an associate in private practice from 1996 to 1997, and then served in the Office of the New York State Attorney General, Division of Appeals and Opinions, as an Assistant Solicitor General and Assistant Attorney General from 1997 through 2001. In 2001, she joined Albany Law School as a Visiting Assistant Lawyering Professor, and from 2002 through 2010 served as an Associate Professor. In 2010, she was promoted to Professor of Law, and served in various Associate Dean positions from 2012 through 2014. In 2014, she served as Acting Dean of Albany Law School and became Dean in January 2015 and President in July 2015. From 2007 through 2015, she also served as a Professor of Bioethics at Union Graduate College/Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

Dean Ouellette has served in leadership positions for numerous professional and community organizations, including as chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section for Deans, secretary and board member for the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU), secretary and board member for the Burdett Birthing Center in Troy, N.Y., and board member for the University at Albany's Institute for Health and Human Rights.

### **Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson**

Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, Judge of the Court of Claims and Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, was found by the Commission to be well qualified for the position of Chief Judge based on her character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications and fitness for office. She was interviewed by the Commission for the Chief Judge vacancy on November 21, 2022.

Judge Mendelson received her undergraduate degree (*summa cum laude*) from City College of New York in 1985. She received her law degree from the City University of New York School of Law in 1988. She also received a Master of Philosophy in 2000 and a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2002, for which she was awarded the Niederhoffer Fellowship. Following law school, Judge Mendelson worked as a Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society from 1988 to 1989 and the Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services from 1990 to 1991. Between 1991 and 2001, while she was obtaining her Master of Philosophy and Ph.D and teaching courses for John Jay College's Law and Police Science Department, Judge Mendelson was a New York County Family Court Assigned Counsel, representing individuals in all aspects of Family Court pursuant to court assignment. Between 1998 and 2001, she was also a Small Claims Court Arbitrator in Bronx Civil Court. In 2001, Judge Mendelson became an Attorney Referee for Queens County Family Court. In 2003, she became a Queens County Family Court Judge, serving in that role until 2008, when she became a Supervising Judge. Between 2009 and 2015, Judge Mendelson was the Administrative Judge for New York City Family Court. Since January 2015, Judge Mendelson has been an Acting Supreme Court Justice, and since June 2017, a Judge of the Court of Claims. In July 2017, she became Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives. In that capacity, she has led the Equal Justice in Courts Initiative and oversees the Office for Justice Initiatives Division of Policy & Planning.

Judge Mendelson serves as a Commissioner of the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts, and Chair of the Joint OCA and New York State Bar Association COVID-19 Recovery Pro Bono Task Force. She also serves as a member of a number of New York State Unified Court System Committees and the Judicial Council of the New York County Lawyers Association.

### **Corey Lynn Stoughton, Esq.**

Corey Lynn Stoughton, Attorney-in-Charge, Special Litigation and Law Reform, The Legal Aid Society, was found by the Commission to be well qualified for the position of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals based on her character, temperament, professional aptitude, experience, qualifications, and fitness for office. She was previously nominated by the

Commission for the position of Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals in 2021. She was interviewed by the Commission for the Chief Judge vacancy on November 21, 2022.

Ms. Stoughton received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan (with high honors) in 1998 and law degree from Harvard Law School (*magna cum laude*) in 2002. She was Lead Submissions Editor of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review and President and Founding Member of the American Constitution Society, Harvard Chapter. She also received the 2002 Dean's Award for Community Leadership. Upon graduation from law school, she served as a law clerk for the Honorable Cornelia G. Kennedy of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She also was a civil rights fellow at Relman & Associates and a Karpatkin Fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union.

From 2005-2015, Ms. Stoughton was a senior supervising attorney at the New York Civil Liberties Union. From 2007-2015, she was an adjunct clinical professor at New York University School of Law, where she taught the New York Civil Liberties Clinic. In 2015, she became senior counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. She remained in that post until 2017, when she became the advocacy director and acting director of UK Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties). In 2020, she joined The Legal Aid Society as its Attorney-in-Charge, Special Litigation and Law Reform.